

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are presently active in this case.

The present preliminary amendment is filed to correct paragraph [0001] of the specification. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 1-21 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 08/03)

EHK/MEM/kkn

I:\ATTY\MM\AMENDMENT\730\245430.PRELIM..DOC